

## **CRANBURY PRESBYTERIAN NURSERY SCHOOL 2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Cranbury Presbyterian Nursery School (CPNS) has completed its 32nd year of providing a Christian preschool environment to preschoolers and their families.

Our enrollment for the school year 2016-2017 is as follows:

- 2 ½-year-old classes have 23 of the 24 spots filled
- 3-year-old classes have 37 of the 42 spots filled
- 4-year-old classes have 44 of the 44 spots filled
- KSB class have 10 of the 14 spots filled

We currently offer 9 classes. They are as follows:

- 2 ½-year-old classes: Monday/Wednesday AM and Tuesday/Thursday AM
- 3-year-old classes: Tuesday/Thursday AM  
Monday/Wednesday/Friday AM  
Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday PM
- 4-year-old classes: Monday/Wednesday/Friday AM  
Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday AM  
Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday PM
- Kindergarten Skill Builders: Monday/Friday PM

Our statistics for the school year 2016-2017 are:

- 11 of our current students have a parent as a church member, 3 children have a grandparent as a church member. Many other families are active in our church's programs. We continue to welcome CPNS families to participate in the life of our church. There are a few families that currently attend worship and Sunday school, and many that teach in Vacation Bible School.
- 14 families have siblings enrolled, 7 of these families have twins.
- Approximately 48% of our families this year are from Cranbury. This is an increase of 10% from the 2015-2016 school year.

We offer our Lunch and Fun program 5 days a week. We also offer a variety of enrichment classes including Book Nook, Full S.T.E.A.M., Let's Move, Let's Pretend, 321...Fun, and Power of Play. For children not yet able to attend our regular CPNS classes, we offer our Mommy and Me program on Friday mornings.

This year our music program consists of music classes led by Jenni Collins and creative movement classes led by Noël Kinney. Dorothy Klotzbeacher has been instrumental in establishing our music program at CPNS since its inception in 1986 and continues to assist with our special music programs throughout the year. Music is so important to the development of preschoolers and we are so blessed to have these individuals sharing their special talents with CPNS.

Our community participation continues through our involvement in Cranbury Day, sharing a table with the church, and our continued support to the volunteers of the Cranbury Fire Department and First Aid Squad with our Cranbury Community Volunteer Program. We are also a member of the Cranbury Business Association.

Our 2016-2017 staff totals 23, which includes 11 Teachers: Vicki Bain, Francine Coffee, Jenni Collins, Pam Dressel, Kathy Edwards, Noël Kinney, Dorothy Klotzbeacher, Helen Lazzaro, Linda Protinick, Debbie Petro and Jill Staples; 8 Assistant Teachers: Kathleen Cenci, Kathy Iorio, Linda Protinick (also a teacher of our Mommy & Me class), Felicia Halligan, Denise Reilley, Sandy Price, Helen Lazzaro (also a teacher of one of our enrichment classes) and Cyndi Oresto (also our lunch program coordinator).

Vicki Bain, one of our teachers, also serves as our Head Teacher. This year we began a new STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) enrichment program taught by Helen Lazzaro. Cyndi Oresto serves as our Lunch Hour Coordinator, Kathleen Cenci assists with various administrative duties. Denise Reilley has taken on the role as our Purchaser. Our Lunch Program Teachers are Dorothy Klotzbeacher, Kathleen Cenci, Jenni Collins, Pam Dressel, Felicia Halligan, Anne Marie Gibson, Cyndi Oresto, Renee Spero, Julie Kluge and Nancy Kietlinski.

Pam Dressel teaches our Let's Pretend Enrichment Programs, assisted by Cyndi Oresto. Debbie Petro and Kathy Iorio teach our Power of Play and Book Nook Enrichment Programs. Linda Protinick teaches our Mommy and Me Program. Helen Lazzaro teaches our Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead Enrichment class, assisted by Denise Reilley and Noël Kinney teaches our Let's Move Enrichment class assisted by Denise Reilley. Jill Staples teaches our newest Enrichment Program 321....Fun assisted by Kathy Iorio. Kindergarten Skill Builders class is taught by Vicki Bain and Kathy Edwards.

Jenni Collins and Noel Kinney provide our weekly music program with all of our 2½, 3 and 4/5-year-old classes along with Dorothy Klotzbeacher assisting in our wonderful parent music programs with all of our CPNS families. Janice Parker is our Director. We also have a variety of individuals who substitute teach for CPNS. Lori Kleppe from the West Windsor/Plainsboro School District serves as our Learning Consultant. Janet Wheeler is our Business Administrator. Stan Dickerson continues to provide us with building and grounds support along with our very dedicated members of our Buildings and Grounds Committee.

The CPNS Board for 2016 consisted of 9 board members, of which 6 are church members and 3 are non-church members. They are: Samantha Andrews, Chris Cenci, Jessica Corriveau, Matt Curran, Dina Ellsworth, Kelly Flannery, Candice Gluck, Kristen Hackett, Patria Sullivan (Moderator), and Leslie Vandenberg. The Board also has two non-voting advisors, Danny Kinney and Lori Kleppe. We are so grateful to have these individuals share their gifts and talents with CPNS. We changed our CPNS By-laws this year to include our senior pastor as a non-voting member of the board.

At the conclusion of the year 2016 Samantha Andrews, Kristen Hackett, and Kelly Flannery complete their terms. Kristen and Kelly completed two terms for a total of six years. Samantha will be returning as a board member to complete another three-year term beginning January 2017. We have two new members joining the board in 2017 – Kristen Taylor and Nicole Mingullion.

Our 2016/2017 annual tuition fees were as follows:

- \$1,943.00 for all two session programs
- \$2,795.00 for all three session programs
- \$2,045.00 for Kindergarten Skill Builders

Here are a few highlights from our year:

- CPNS has a new website, [www.cranburycpns.org](http://www.cranburycpns.org). One of our CPNS board member's husband, Josh Anderson created the website with input from our board members and teachers. We still have a direct link back and forth to the church website. Our new website is more user friendly for both existing CPNS families, and those families looking for a new preschool.
- We continue to provide an example of an appropriate early childhood learning environment for students from TCNJ (The College of New Jersey) who are learning to be teachers. Every Wednesday a group of students from TCNJ participate in their sophomore field experience at CPNS.
- Our CPNS Pre-Summer program was held for two weeks in June, and our CPNS Summer program was held for two weeks in July.
- Our McCaffrey receipt collection, thanks to Lil Conley, continues successfully, and we receive 1% of the total sales. We also continue to participate in a program through Amazon, called "Amazon Smile".
- In April, we honored Mrs. "K" for her dedication and love to the children and families of CPNS. A gala and silent auction was held on April 23 at the Cranbury Inn. We raised about \$16,000 for playground enhancements, some of which have been completed, with a few more details to come. We hope to have a dedication in the Spring.
- We continue to work with Sargent Ryan Dworzanski from the Cranbury Police Department to help with our "lock down drills" and security issues. Thanks to Buildings and Grounds, two key pads have been installed at our entrance doors.
- We have been accepted to participate in "Grow NJ Kids" which is New Jersey's new rating and improvement system designed to assess early care and education programs, provide training and incentives to improve, and to communicate their level of quality to the public. After completing our self-reflection last year, we have put together a quality improvement plan and classroom enhancements to help with the improvements. Both documents have been approved by the Grow NJ implementation team. We are looking forward to receiving the materials and equipment and being rated in the school year 2017-2018.
- We continue to use our original CPNS curriculum as a resource and have been able to receive the newest version of Creative Curriculum which we previously used as a resource as our curriculum of choice. Through our participation in Grow NJ Kids we received the newest version of Creative curriculum for all of our classes. The value was about \$12,000.00, something we would not be able to afford without the financial support of this initiative. The Grow NJ Kids technical specialists provided an "Open Box" party for our teachers during the summer and many of us have attended or will be attending the Creative Curriculum training sessions being offered.
- I continue my work toward my Ed.D at Rutgers the State University. My course work is complete and I successfully passed the qualifying exam. I defended my dissertation proposal in March and completed the research with three of our CPNS teachers. My dissertation is a professional development initiative aimed at improving the teaching of oral language during playtime. I am excited to continue to share the information that I am learning with all of us at CPNS, and the opportunities to help CPNS excel with new and appropriate ways for children and our teachers to learn. I look forward to defending my dissertation sometime during 2017. I was honored to be able to present at the NJAECTE's 2016 Early Childhood conference on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at William Paterson College. The topic was on Meaningful Conversations during Playtime. In March I was also chosen to present a poster presentation, "Improving Oral Language Instruction: A Qualitative

Study of a PD Initiative” at the conference for The Association for the Study of Play. I maintain certification as a Professional Development Specialist, and continue to teach at the College of New Jersey as an adjunct professor in the early childhood department. I have completed 17 years at CPNS as the Director, and prior to that as an assistant teacher for one year and taught in the 3-year-old program for four years for a combined total of 22 years of service to CPNS.

Our year was once again filled with a variety of milestones, activities and new opportunities. CPNS successfully maintains a developmentally appropriate Christian preschool program offering the guidance for learning important life skills and the appropriate academic requirements kindergarten programs are now demanding in addition to the accountability pressures that are reshaping the learning environment for young children and their teachers. Our CPNS Curriculum resource and our curriculum of choice, “Creative Curriculum”, provide additional opportunities to do what we do best regarding children and their learning. We are the most developmentally appropriate academic Christian preschool in the area and we are blessed to continue to offer this necessary preschool program to our church members and local community.

CPNS is a place where children are safe and comfortable and succeed in an environment filled with love and Christian values. The preschool years provide the important foundation for each child to build upon. CPNS provides this very important foundation by using a developmentally appropriate curriculum and with teachers who share their unconditional love and respect with each and every child, and work to meet each child at their own developmental stage. Children blossom in their care! CPNS children become successful preschool graduates who continue to want to succeed and learn. The dedication and commitment of our teachers, assistant teachers, and each staff member, never goes unnoticed and is so greatly appreciated. Each year during our Christmas celebration our teachers are recognized for their years of service with CPNS. This year we recognized Debbie Petro for her 20 years of service. Thank you, Debbie, and all of our teachers for everything you share with our children every day. You can see for yourself the dedication and commitment for the many years of service of all of our staff members: Dorothy Klotzbeacher – 1985; Pam Dressel – 1993 (left in 1996 to have children and returned in 2010); Janice Parker – 1994; Kathy Iorio – 1995; Debbie Petro – 1996; Kathy Edwards – 1999; Linda Protinick – 1999 (left in 2007 and returned in 2010); Denise Reilley – 2007; Vicki Bain – 2012; Noël Kinney – 2012; Cyndi Oresto – 2012; Francine Coffee – 2012; Helen Lazzaro – 2013; Theresa Vaccaro – 2013; Jennie Collins – 2013; Jill Staples – 2014, Sandy Price – 2014, Felicia Halligan – 2015, Anne Marie Gibson – 2016, Julie Kluge – 2016, Nancy Kietliniski – 2016, and Renee Spero – 2016.

As part of the First Presbyterian Church of Cranbury, we are blessed with a church staff that is always there to lend a hand, including our pastors who share important Christian messages to our children, and their spiritual support shared with all of us. We are also blessed with our Buildings & Grounds Committee comprised of volunteers who maintain our facilities and provide a safe environment for our children. They continue to go above and beyond expectations. Our Senior Fellowship group graciously invites our children to participate in their events and our Mission, Service and Grants Committee continues to provide opportunities to show our children how to help others. The Outreach Committee provides a connection to our community through advertising and the church website. Pat Cavender, Stan Dickerson, Ann Mooney and Matt Rhodes, part of our Website Committee, continue to exceed in helping to provide CPNS with a website that is easy to navigate and filled with valuable information for our existing families and new families looking for a preschool for their children. They also share their knowledge and guidance regarding how we can enhance our communication through our website. I can't thank them enough for all they

do and for the time they dedicate to CPNS and our church. Support is evidenced continuously through the many church committees and members of the First Presbyterian Church of Cranbury.

We have been awarded accreditation in the National Association of Young Children accreditation and through the dedication and hard work of all of us at CPNS we continue to maintain this national recognition. The recognition continues to let everyone know just how special CPNS is for all children and to affirm the commitment and dedication of excellence at CPNS.

We would like to thank everyone for their contributions and support to help make what I do an enjoyable and fulfilling experience. Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide this special preschool experience to our children as we continue to rise to meet their needs. Thank you also for your continued warm welcome into the church family at the First Presbyterian Church of Cranbury and for always including CPNS in church programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Parker, Director and Patria Sullivan, CPNS Moderator